



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS OPPORTUNITY ADVISORY

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KENTUCKY JOINS REAL WORLD DESIGN CHALLENGE

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Lieutenant Governor Jerry Abramson will formally announce the Commonwealth of Kentucky's partnership with the Real World Design Challenge (RWDC) on Tuesday, March 27, at 1 p.m. at Frankfort High School.

Representatives from the RWDC, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Kentucky Department of Education, Frankfort High School, UPS and other organizations will join Lt. Gov. Abramson for the announcement.

Kentucky will join 39 other states and U.S. territories in the RWDC, an education initiative that is designed to increase the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce. The Frankfort High RWDC team won the state-level challenge, and the team will represent Kentucky in the national challenge on April 20-23 in Washington, D.C.

Ten Kentucky teams began the state-level challenge, and Frankfort High completed all components successfully. Other schools with teams were Conner High (Boone Co.); Christian Co. Career and Tech Center; Corbin Area Technology Center; Danville High; Bryan Station High (Fayette Co.); Glasgow High; Monroe Co. High; Taylor Co. High; and Union Co. High.

"The Real World Design Challenge partnership helps address the growing industry demand for workers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)," said Ralph K. Coppola, director of the Real World Design Challenge and senior director of Government and Strategic Education Programs for Programs at Parametric Technology Corp. "The Real World Design Challenge bridges the needs of the industry with the future of education. It teaches innovation, creativity, collaboration and other 21st-century skills using the expertise that industry, government and higher education have been perfecting for decades. With this real-world approach to learning, we can keep our workforce strong and ensure America's prosperity for the future."

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"The FAA is delighted to support this truly unique program," said Douglas R. Murphy, FAA Southern Region regional administrator. "The Real World Design Challenge helps our students prepare for the future. Through programs like this, we will increase our pipeline of qualified aerospace professionals and ensure America remains the aerospace benchmark for quality, safety and efficiency in the 21st century."

The challenge is a free annual high school competition run by a public-private partnership with the goal to encourage students to pursue careers in aeronautics and transportation. For this year's challenge, teams of students in grades 9-12 will design a plane looking at the forces of flight, lift, weight, thrust and drag, with the goal of enhancing performance and fuel efficiency.

The Real World Design Challenge starts with a state-level competition. Students in participating states and territories sign up for the competition, then compete for the Governor's Cup. The winner in each state or territory receives an all-expenses-paid trip to compete in the national finals in Washington, D.C.

Every teacher that participates in the RWDC gets \$1 million worth of professional engineering software, along with training, curriculum materials and access to mentors. Teams of high school students use these resources to solve an engineering challenge that is currently faced by industry.

For more information on the Real World Design Challenge, visit <http://www.realworlddesignchallenge.org/>.